

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application or previous response to office action:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of providing access to geodata, the geodata having been acquired by an enterprise having an in-house data communications network, comprising the steps of:

using a metadata builder to access geodata input files and to generate metadata files associated with the geodata files;

using a file converter to convert the geodata input files to downloadable archive files;

storing the archive files and metadata files in a repository serviced by the in-house data communications network;

using a metadata harvester to retrieve the metadata files from the repository;

wherein the metadata harvester retrieves the metadata files as XML (eXtensible Markup Language) and HTML (HyperText Markup Language) metadata files;

wherein the metadata harvester comprises a file locator for retrieving XML files, a metadata compiler for compiling retrieved XML files, a converter for retrieving HTML files and converting them to ANSI format, and a database builder for formatting the compiled and converted metadata files to relational database format; and to build

storing the metadata files in relational database format in a metadata database;

wherein the metadata database is ;

~~storing the metadata database in memory~~ accessible by an internet server; and

using the internet server to: communicate via the Internet with a user's web browser; to receive query data from the web browser; to respond to the queries by accessing the metadata database; to download a results page containing a list of records, each record having a metadata link to metadata associated with the record; to download a metadata page in response to

activation of the metadata link, the metadata page containing metadata and at least one link to an archive file; to retrieve an archive file from the repository in response to activation of the link; and to download locally the archive file via a web browser.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein the storing retrieving step is performed by storing retrieving an eXtensible Markup Language (XML) metadata file and an HyperText Markup Language (HTML) metadata file for each archive file.

3. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein one or more file formats and archive files are derived from a number of geodata input files.

4. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the archive files are lossless compressed data files.

5. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the geodata input files may be any of the following formats: vector, raster, or tabular.

6. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the metadata database is a relational database.

7. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the database access is via a Z39.50 server.

8. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the metadata harvester retrieves metadata on a periodic basis.

9. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the metadata harvester retrieves only metadata files which are new since a prior harvest.

10. Cancelled
11. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein the metadata complies with the Federal Geographic Data Committee (FDGC) standard or other metadata standards.
12. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the internet server may receive query data in any one of the following formats: spatial, keyword, or temporal.
13. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein each record has a first metadata link to an HyperText Markup Language (HTML) metadata file and a second metadata link to an ASCII metadata file.
14. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the metadata page further contains a thumbnail image of a map associated with the metadata.

15. (New) A system for providing access to geodata, the geodata having been acquired by an enterprise having an in-house data communications network, comprising:

- a metadata builder operable to access geodata input files and to generate metadata files associated with the geodata files;

- a file converter operable to convert the geodata input files to downloadable archive files;

- a repository serviced by the in-house data communications network for storing the archive files and metadata files;

- wherein the metadata files are stored as XML (eXtensible Markup Language) and/or HTML (HyperText Markup Language) metadata files;

- a metadata harvester operable to retrieve the metadata files from the repository;

- wherein the metadata harvester comprises a file locator for retrieving XML files, a metadata compiler for compiling retrieved XML files, a converter for retrieving HTML files and converting them to ANSI format, and a database builder for formatting the compiled and converted metadata files to relational database format;

- a metadata database for storing the metadata files in relational database format;

- wherein the metadata database is accessible by an internet server and is operable to perform at least the following tasks: communicate via the Internet with a user's web browser; to receive query data from the web browser; to respond to the queries by accessing the metadata database; to download a results page containing a list of records, each record having a metadata link to metadata associated with the record; to download a metadata page in response to activation of the metadata link, the metadata page containing metadata and at least one link to an archive file; to retrieve an archive file from the repository in response to activation of the link; and to download locally the archive file via a web browser.